



**CDSS**  
CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CALIFORNIA RECEIVES BONUS AWARD FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE IN THE WELFARE PROGRAM**

SACRAMENTO, For the sixth consecutive year, California has been awarded a High Performance Bonus (HPB) award for achieving high performance levels under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, the federal welfare block grant program.

California will receive a total award of \$12.9 million. This HPB award marks the first time since 1999 that California has earned an award in two categories. One award category is the child care subsidy measure for which California will receive \$8.1 million. The other category is the family formation and stability improvement measure for which California will receive \$4.8 million.

"This is a significant achievement for us," said Dennis Boyle, director of the California Department of Social Services. "It demonstrates California's strong commitment of putting our children first and helping families work toward self-sufficiency."

States that choose to compete for the HPB must have met certain criteria in the federal TANF requirements. The child care measure focuses on the accessibility and affordability of child care services. The family formation and stability improvement measure focuses on the number of children under the age of 18 living in married families.

California's award is based on its performance in 2004. The Social Security Act authorizes the award as a way of rewarding states that achieve high performance levels under the TANF welfare block grant program.

With the addition of the 2004 bonus award, California has accumulated award earnings totaling more than \$150 million. The awards are used to carry out the purposes of the TANF program by funding a range of supportive services, such as child care and transportation which help clients overcome barriers to employment and become self-sufficient.

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